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THE WORLD'S MOST WAY PAST COOL COMIC!

SONIC



THE HEDGEHOG



DIRECT EDITION

After ten long years, the iron-fisted rule of DOCTOR ROBOTNIK over planet MOBIUS was believed to have finally ended! With the technological tyrant vanquished and his polluted factories shut down, order and beauty were restored to the city of MOBOTROPOLIS. Now the villain has returned to wreak havoc once more, but there are many who are willing to stand against him in the fight for freedom. The bravest among them is a brash, blue streak who just happens to be the fastest thing alive! ARCHIE COMICS AND SEGA PRESENT... SONIC THE HEDGEHOG!

THE GREAT FOREST...

SEEMS LIKE I'VE HAD NOTHING BUT BAD LUCK THESE PAST FEW DAYS.

FIRST KING MAX GETS COLD-COCKED UP-SIDE HIS HEAD BECAUSE I WAS BUSY RESCUING THE PRINCE...

...AND NOW I'VE LOST THE ROYAL SWORD OF ACORNS TO ROBOTNIK.

IT WAS THE ONLY HOPE I HAD OF FREEING UNCLE CHUCK AND THE REST O' THE ROBBIANS FROM HIS CONTROL, TOO.

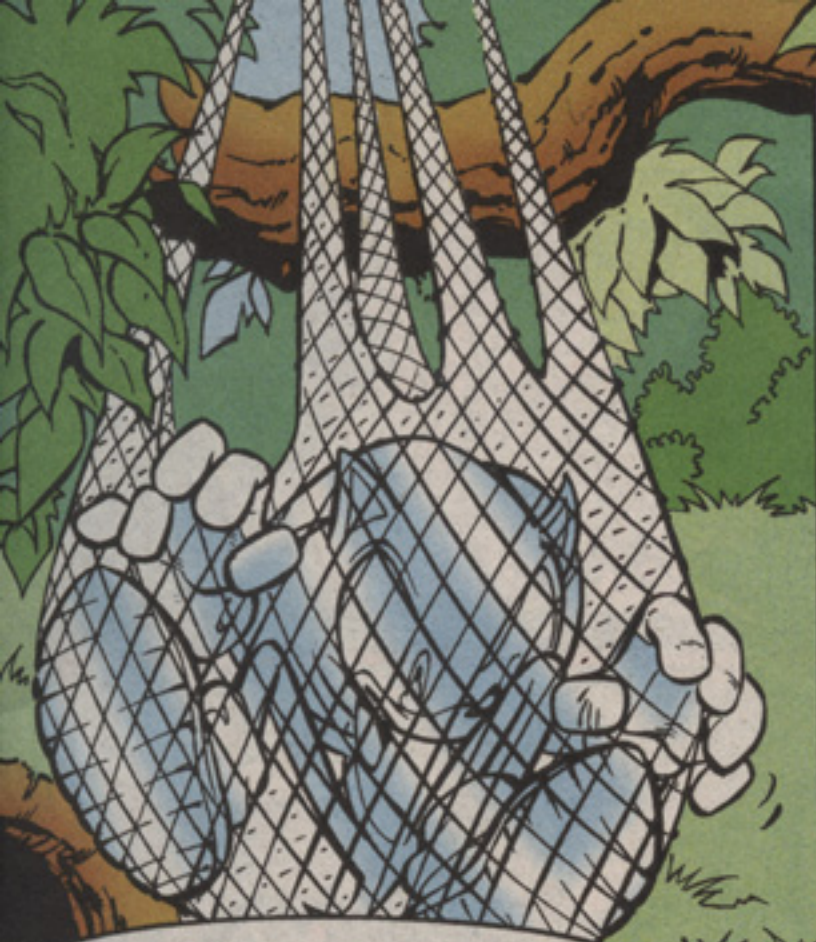
I REALLY BLEW IT.

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG (ISSN:10705090), No. 93, Apr., 2001. Published every 4 weeks, twice in April by Archie Comic Publications, Inc., 325 Fayette Avenue, Mamaroneck, NY 10543-2318. Richard H. Goldwater, President and Co-Publisher, Michael I. Silberkelt, Chairman and Co-Publisher. Single copies \$1.99 in the U.S.; \$2.39 in Canada. Subscription rate: U.S. \$25.87 for 13 issues; \$31.07 in Canada. All Canadian orders payable in U.S. funds. © SEGA CORPORATION 2001. All Rights Reserved. SEGA, DREAMCAST, the Dreamcast logo, Sonic The Hedgehog, and all related characters are trademarks or registered trademarks of SEGA CORPORATION or its affiliates. The product is manufactured under license from Sega of America Dreamcast, Inc., P.O. Box 7639, San Francisco, CA 94120-7639. www.sega.com Any similarities between characters, names, persons, and/or institutions in this book and any living, dead, or fictional characters, names, persons, and/or institutions are not intended and if they exist, are purely coincidental. Periodicals postage paid at the post office at Mamaroneck, New York and at additional mailing offices. Title registered in U.S. patent office. POSTMASTER, send address changes to SONIC THE HEDGEHOG, c/o Archie Comic Publications, Inc., 325 Fayette Avenue, Mamaroneck, NY 10543-2318. Printed in Canada

CRIME 'N PUNISHMENT

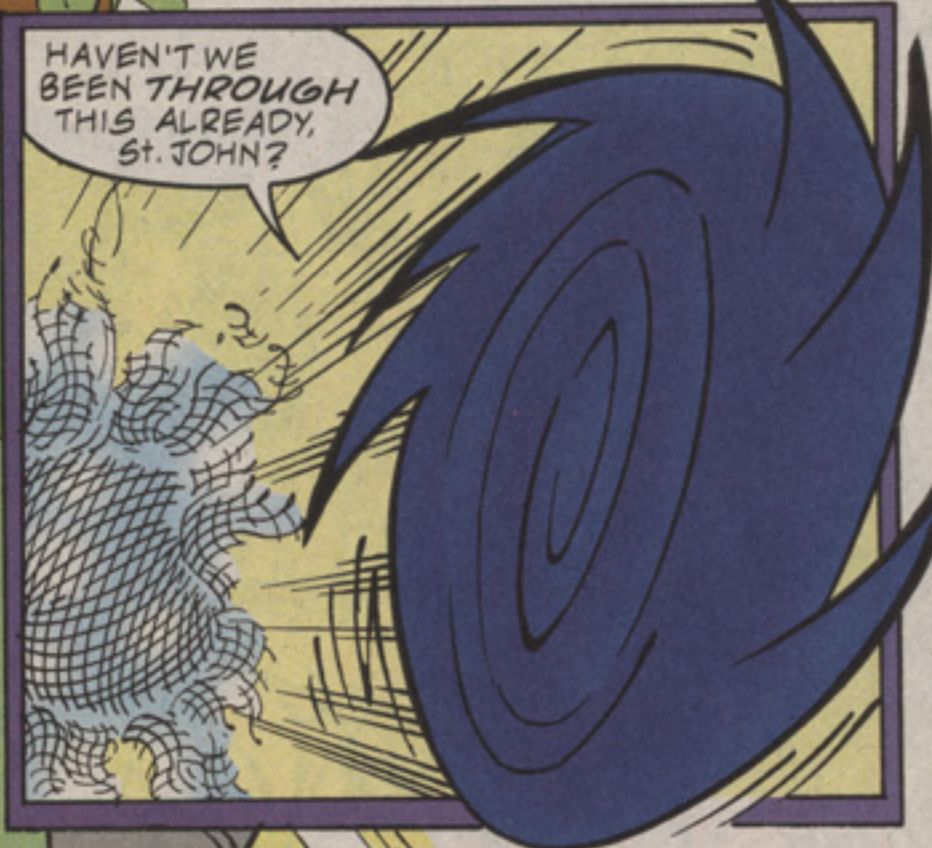
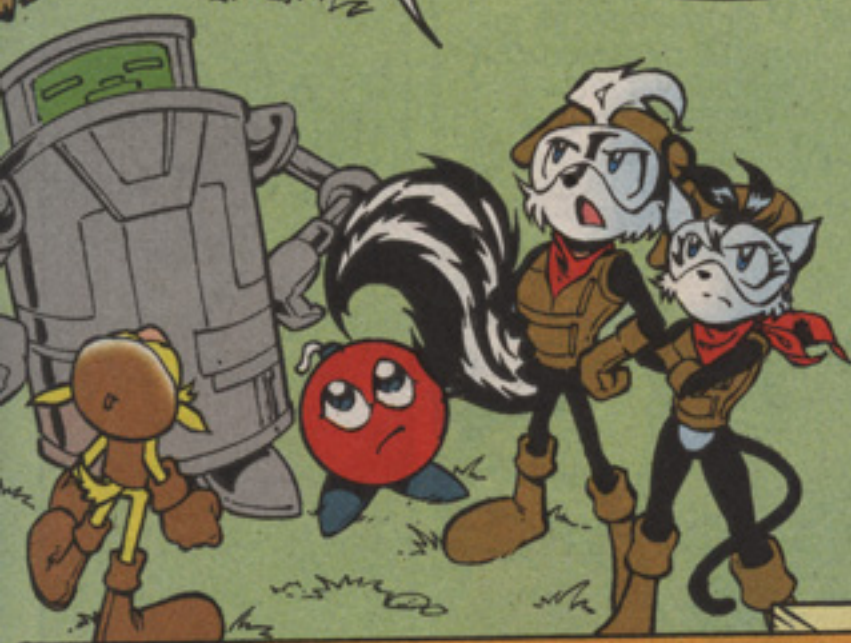
?!

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J. POWELL - LETTERER
FRANK GAGLIARDO - COLORIST
J.F. GABRIE - EDITOR/ART DIRECTOR
VICTOR GORELICK - MANAGING
EDITOR
RICHARD GOLDWATER - EDITOR-
IN-CHIEF



SIR SONIC THE HEDGEHOG,
I HEREBY PLACE YOU UNDER
ARREST FOR THE THEFT OF A
ROYAL ARTIFACT--

ARREST?!



HAVEN'T WE
BEEN THROUGH
THIS ALREADY,
ST. JOHN?



LIKE WHEN
ROBOTNIK HAD YOU
CONVINCED I'D
WHACKED PRINCESS
SALLY!



I WAS WRONG
THEN. NOW, I'M
CORRECTING
MY MISTAKE.

I DON'T
HAVE TO ANSWER
TO YOU!



BUT YOU
HAVE TO
ANSWER TO
SOMEONE,
RIGHT?

ROBOTROPOLIS...

KEEP MOVING IN
AN ORDERLY
FASHION.

GRANDMA, I'M
NOT SURE I FEEL
SAFE HERE.

NOR I,
HOPE. NOR I.

WELL, IT'S A STEP
UP FROM BEING SET
UPON BY MONKEYS
AND HEDGEHOGS,
ISN'T IT?

AHHH, MY
"PEEPS"--WELCOME
TO THE CITY OF
THE FUTURE.
DON'T MIND THE
APPEARANCE.

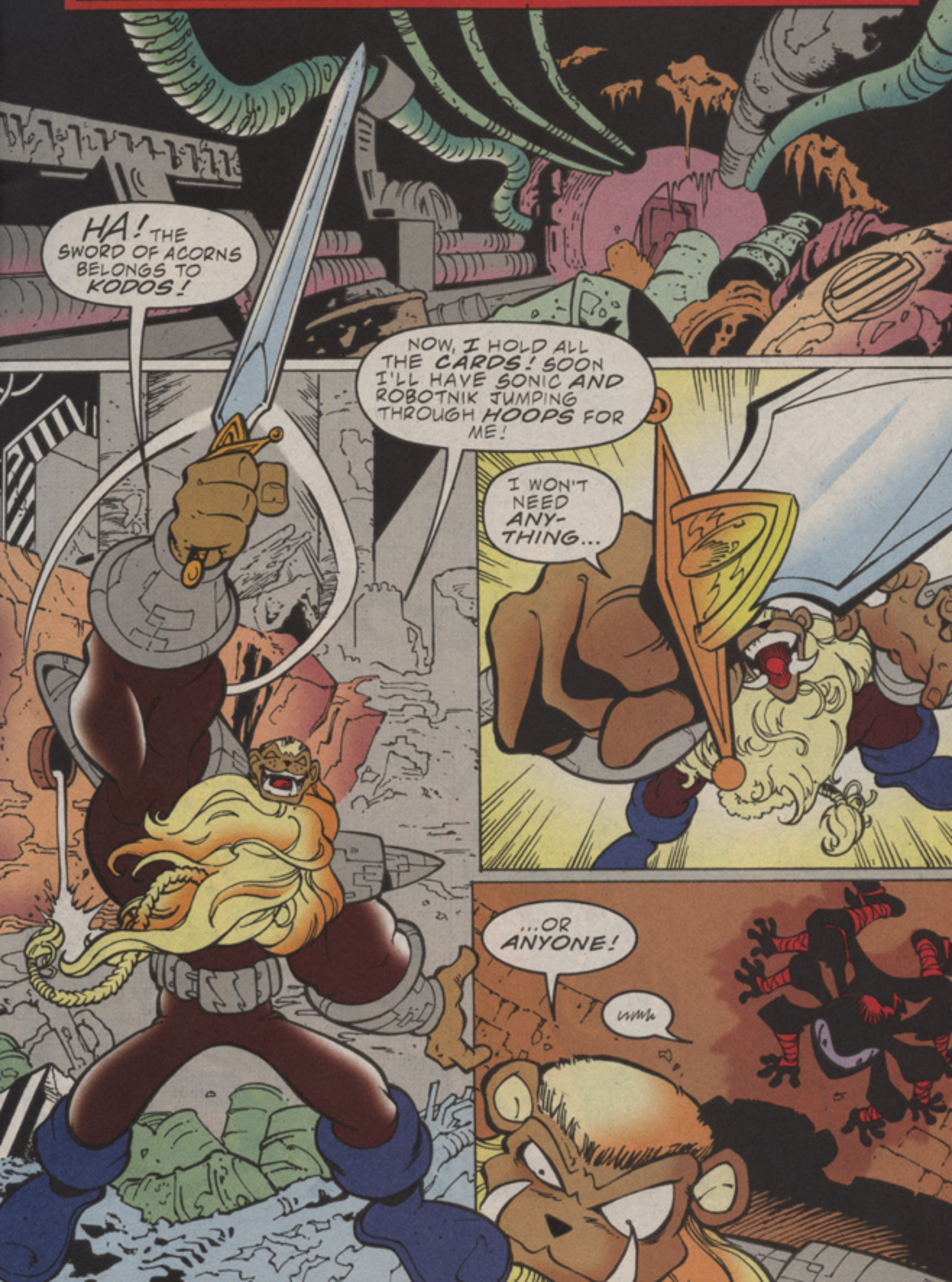
IT'S
EQUIPPED WITH
ACCOMMODA-
TIONS FOR
EVERYONE.
HERE YOU'LL BE
SAFE FROM
DANGER!

HOORAY!

AS FOR
YOU, COLIN,
ANY BROTHER
OF MINE
DESERVES NO
LESS THAN A
LUXURY SUITE
AT MY
PALACE!



AND BENEATH
THE CITY
STREETS...



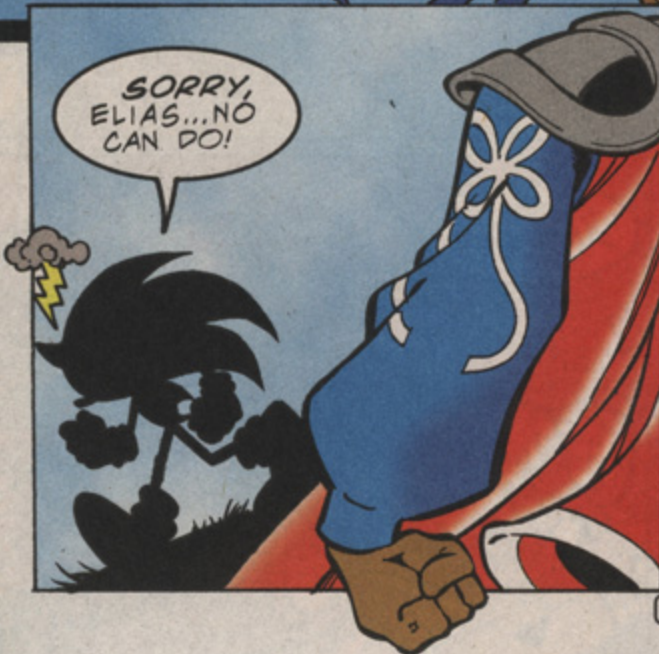
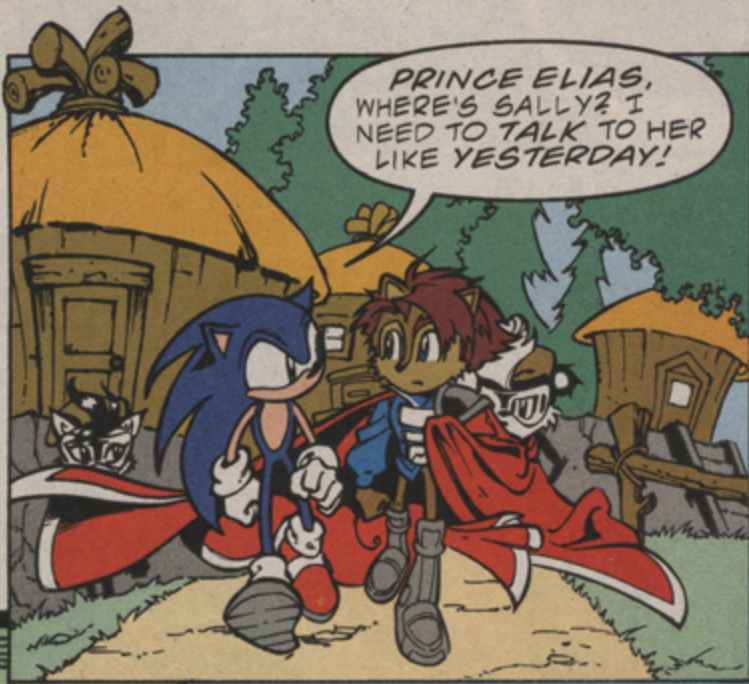
HA! THE
SWORD OF ACORNS
BELONGS TO
KODOS!

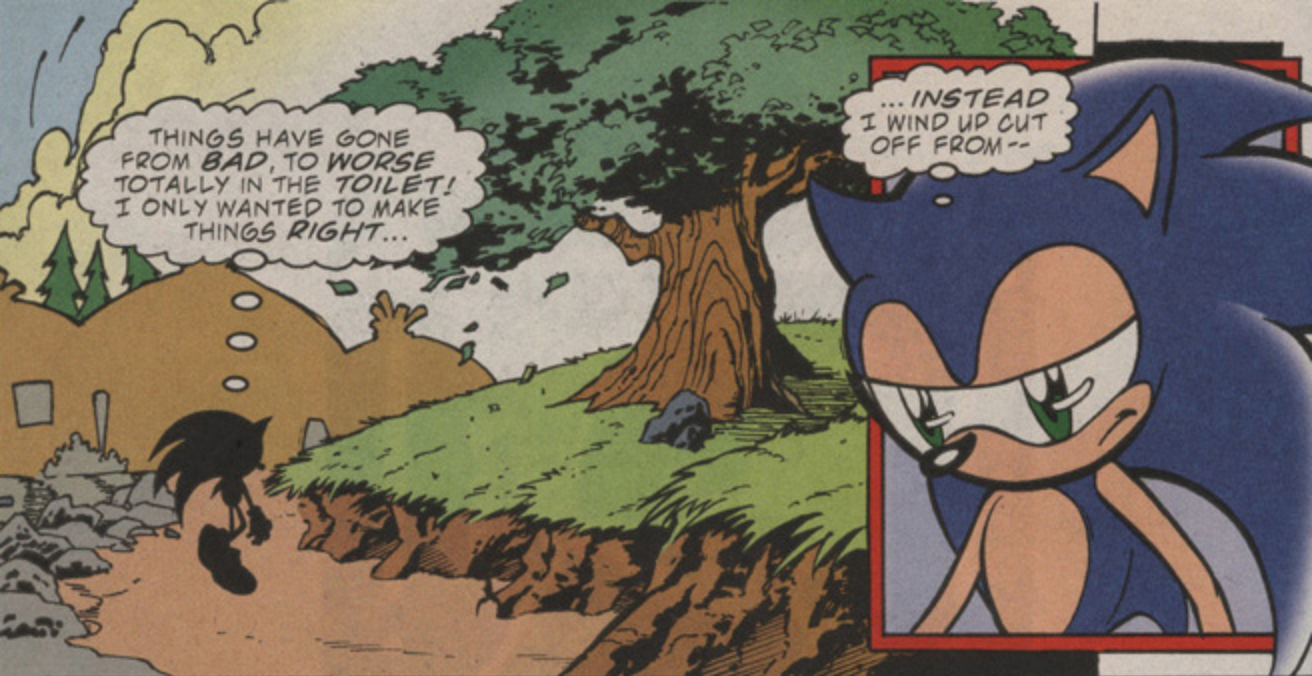
NOW, I HOLD ALL
THE CARDS! SOON
I'LL HAVE SONIC AND
ROBOTNIK JUMPING
THROUGH HOOPS FOR
ME!

I WON'T
NEED
ANY-
THING...

...OR
ANYONE!

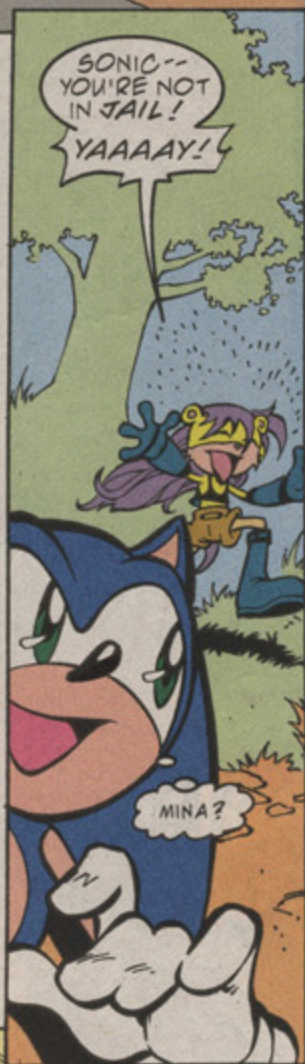
www





THINGS HAVE GONE
FROM BAD, TO WORSE
TOTALLY IN THE TOILET!
I ONLY WANTED TO MAKE
THINGS RIGHT...

...INSTEAD
I WIND UP OUT
OFF FROM--



SONIC--
YOU'RE NOT
IN JAIL!
YAAAAY!

MINA?

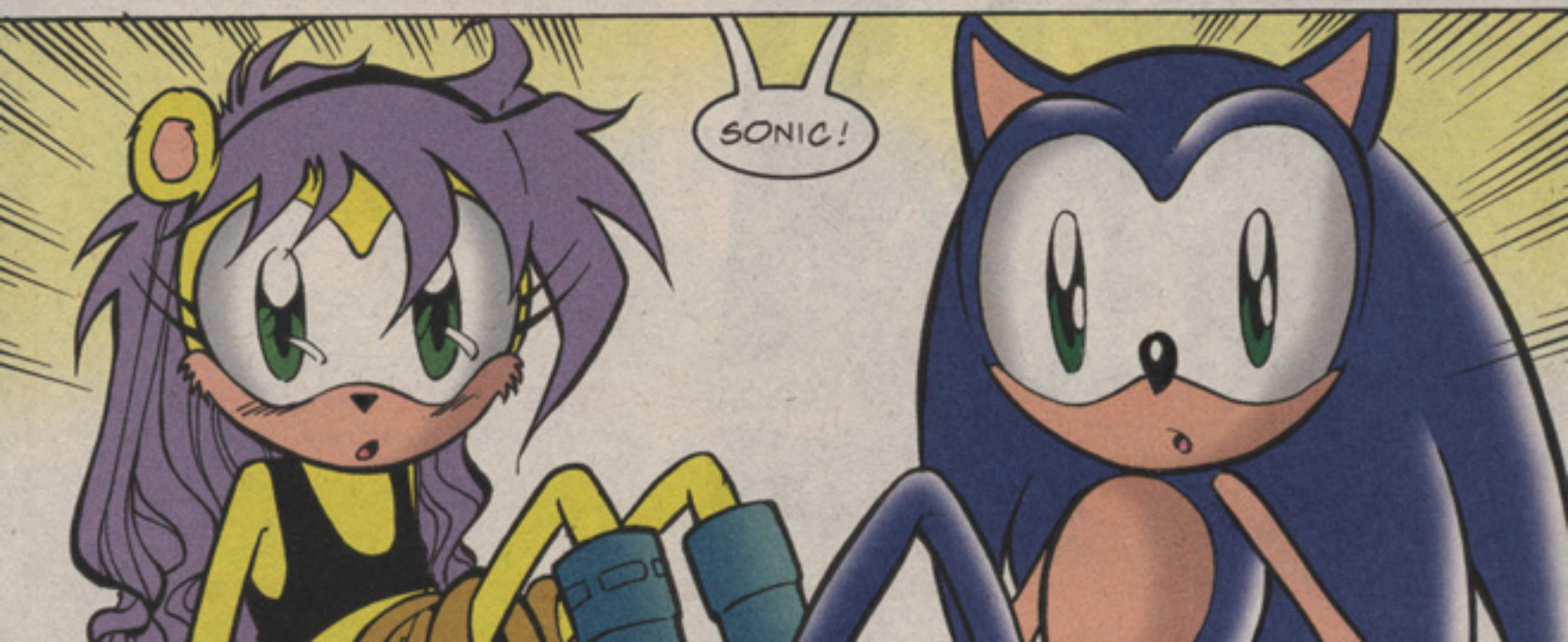
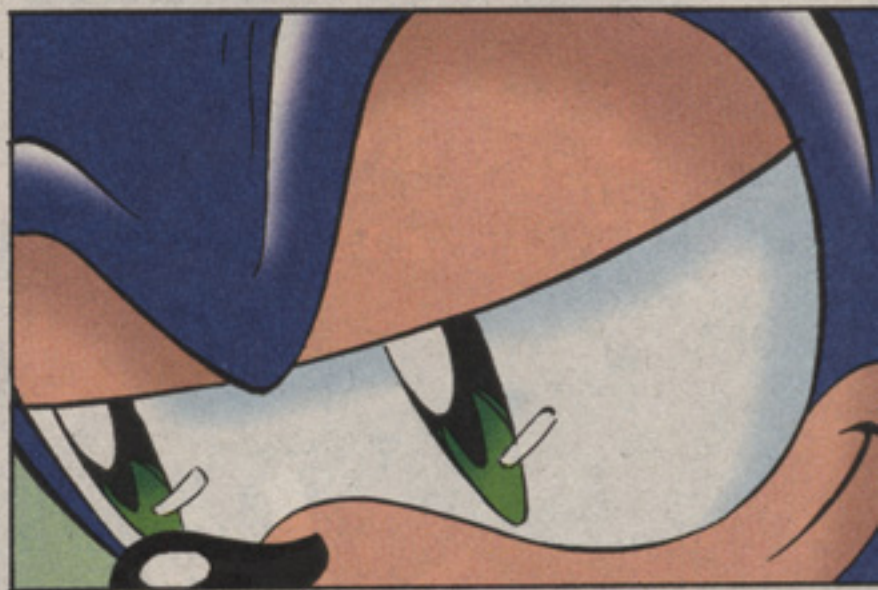
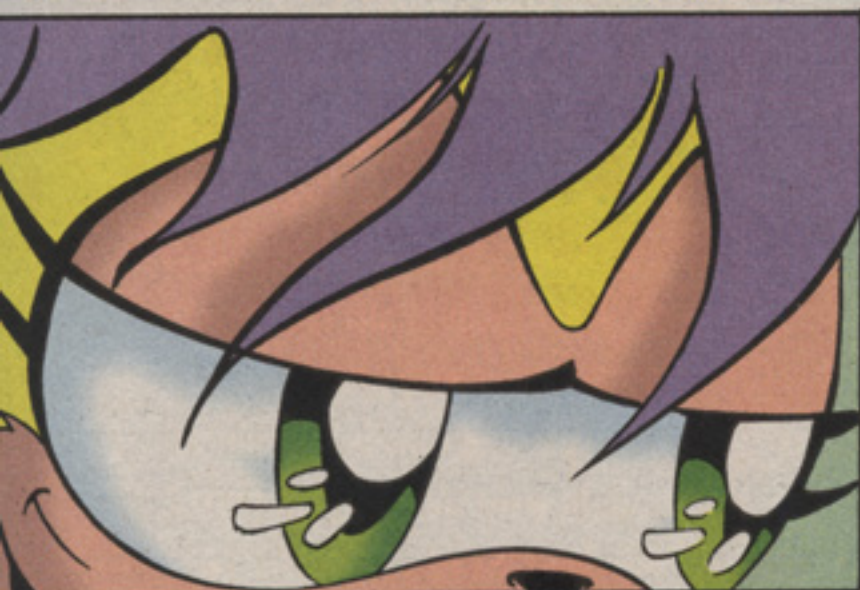
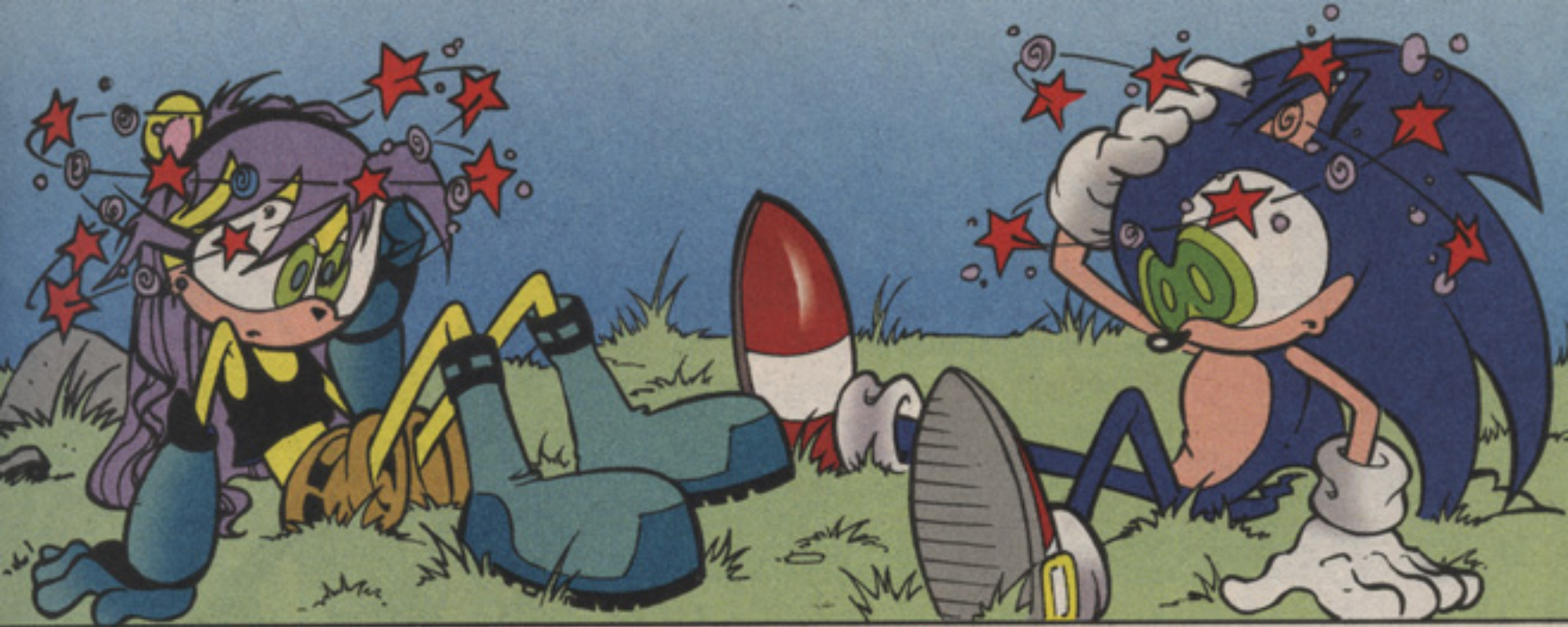


I KNEW
YOU'D SHOW--



WHOOAAA!!

SPL-DOW



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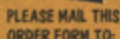
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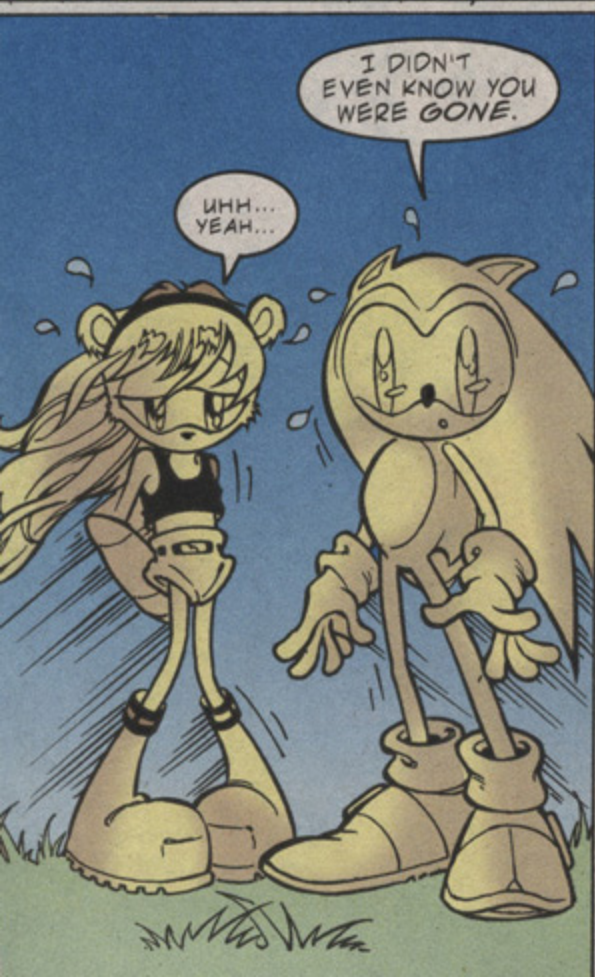
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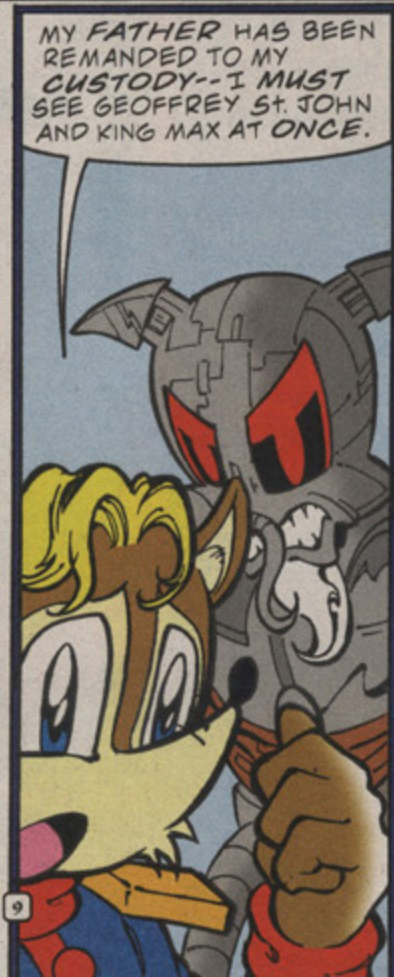
ANTOINE?
BUNNIE? AND
GENERAL
D'COOLETTE?

YES, SON-EEK.
WE'VE JUST ARRIVED
FROM ZEE KINGDOM
OF MERCIA.



I DIDN'T
EVEN KNOW YOU
WERE GONE.

UHH...
YEAH...



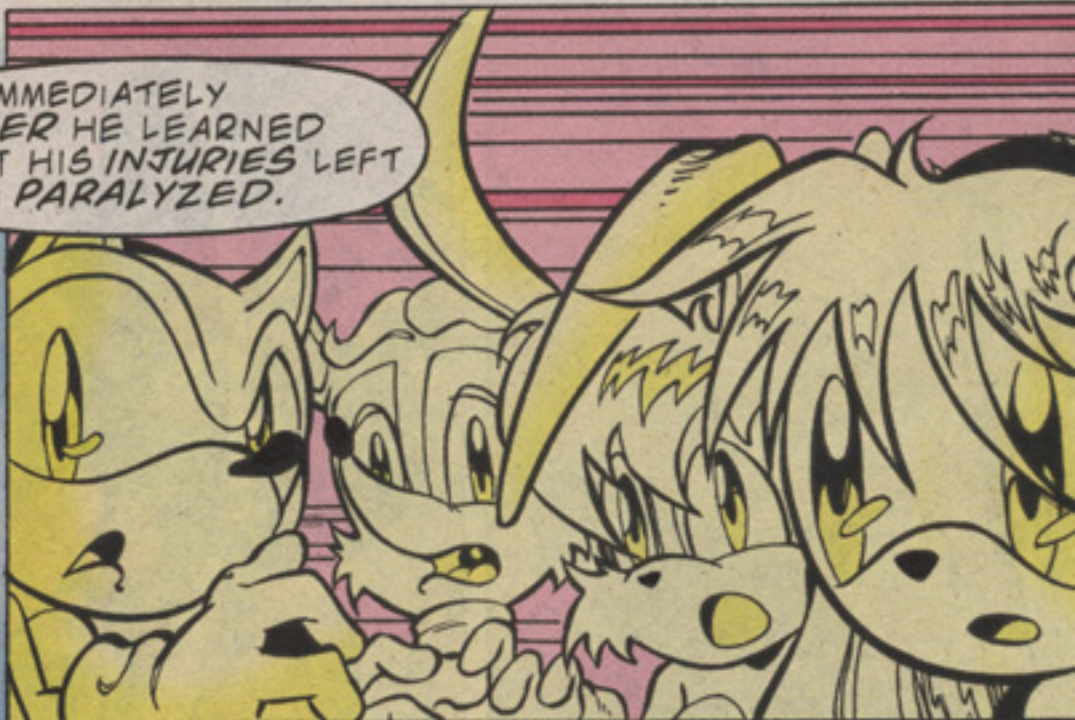
MY FATHER HAS BEEN
REMANDED TO MY
CUSTODY--I MUST
SEE GEOFFREY ST. JOHN
AND KING MAX AT ONCE.



NOT GOING
TO HAPPEN,
SON.

YOU'LL HAVE TO
GIVE HIM OVER TO
GEOFFREY AND ELIAS.
MAX TURNED HIS
AUTHORITY OVER TO
THE PRINCE...

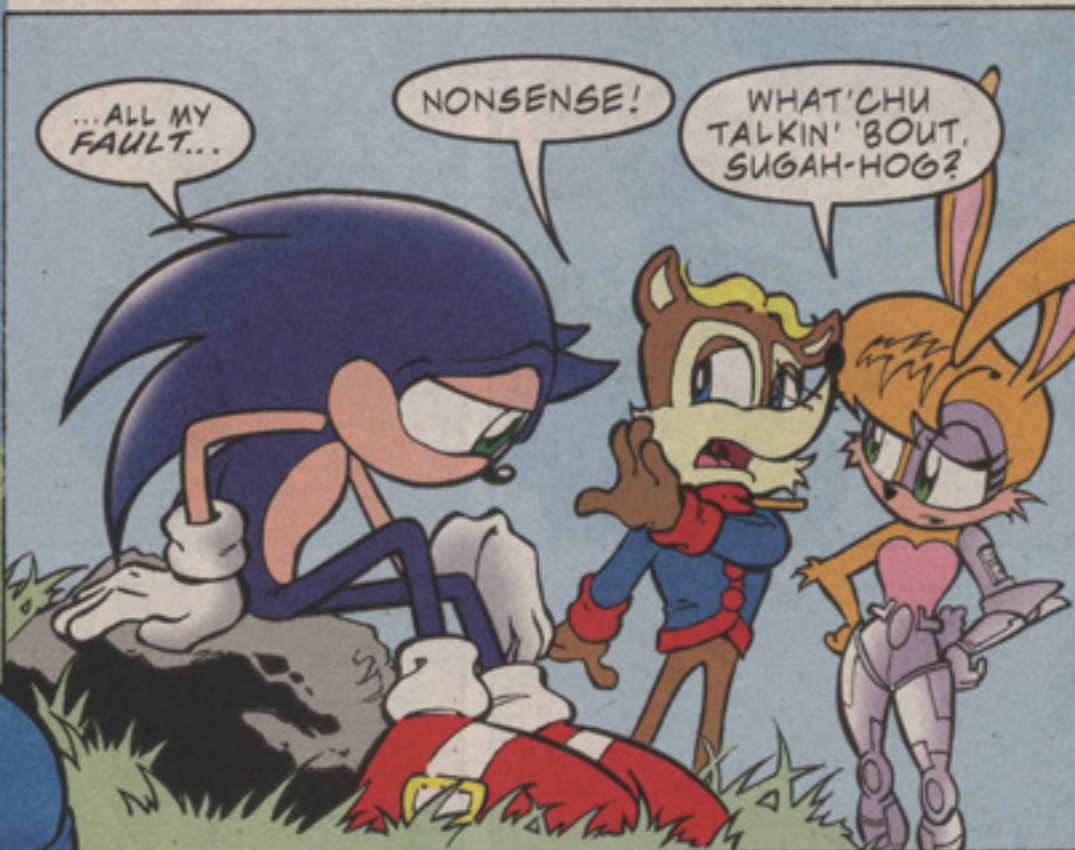
...IMMEDIATELY
AFTER HE LEARNED
THAT HIS INJURIES LEFT
HIM PARALYZED.



...ALL MY
FAULT...

NONSENSE!

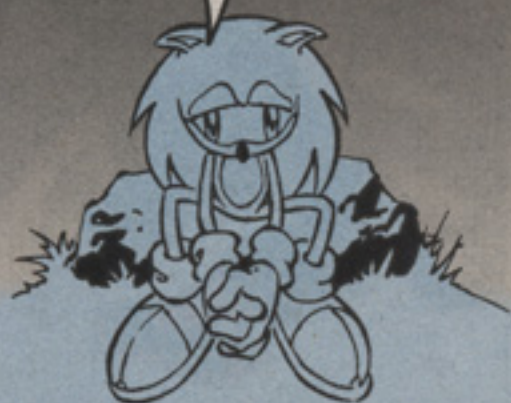
WHAT'CHU
TALKIN' 'BOUT,
SUGAH-HOG?



KING MAX GOT
HURT BECAUSE I
DIDN'T PROTECT HIM
WHEN WE BUSTED INTO
ROBOTNIK'S BASE...

...THEN I TOOK
HIS SWORD. I
FIGURED SALLY AND
ELIAS WERE BUSY
AND I JUST COULDN'T
WAIT.

NOW, ROBOTNIK'S
GOT IT. WHEN ELIAS
TRIED TO FIND OUT
ABOUT IT, I BLEW HIM
OFF.

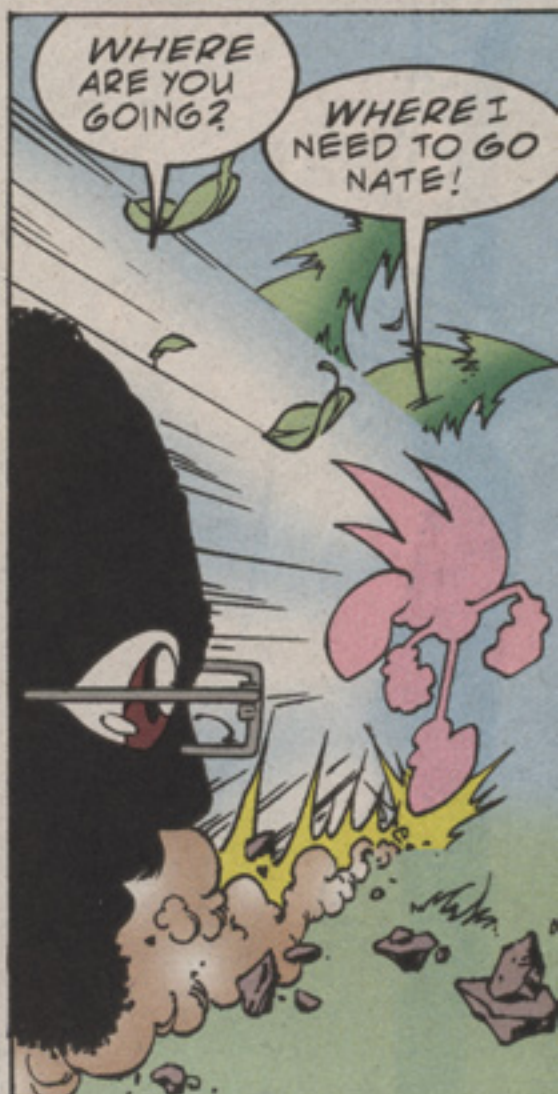


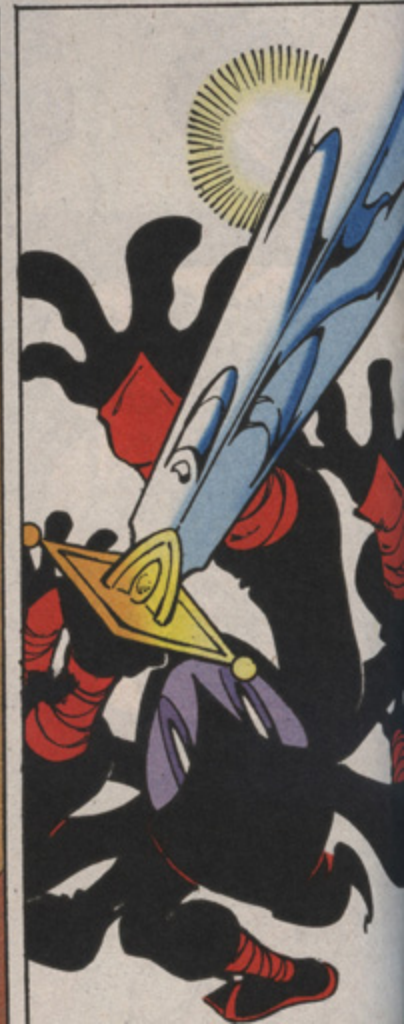
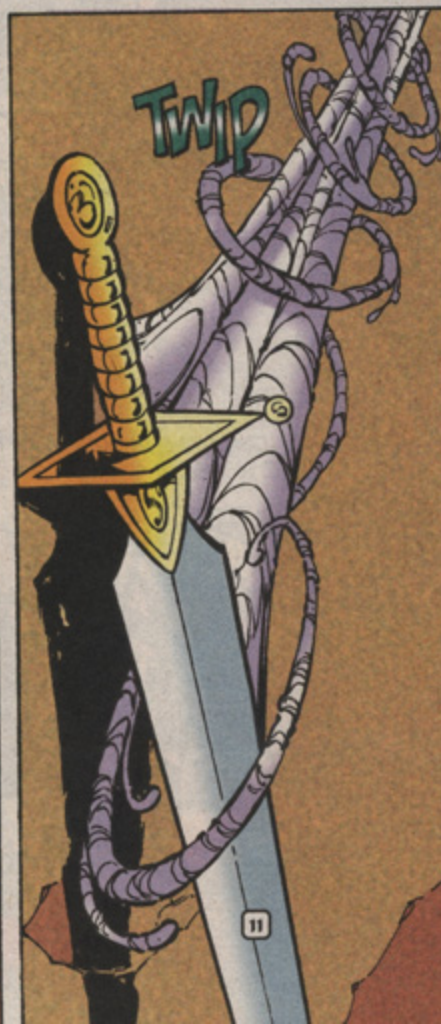
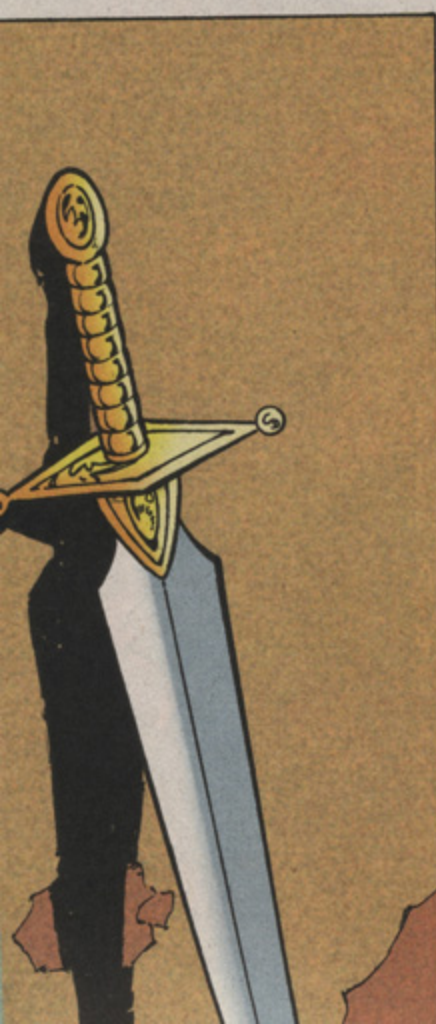
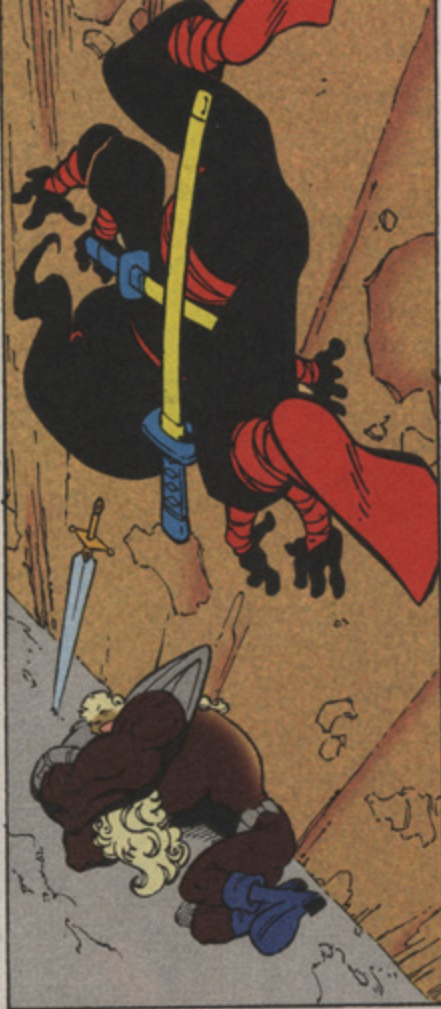
IN ALL
HONESTY, SONIC,
HIS HIGHNESS
SHOULDN'T HAVE
BEEN LEADING
SUCH A DANGEROUS
MISSION AND--

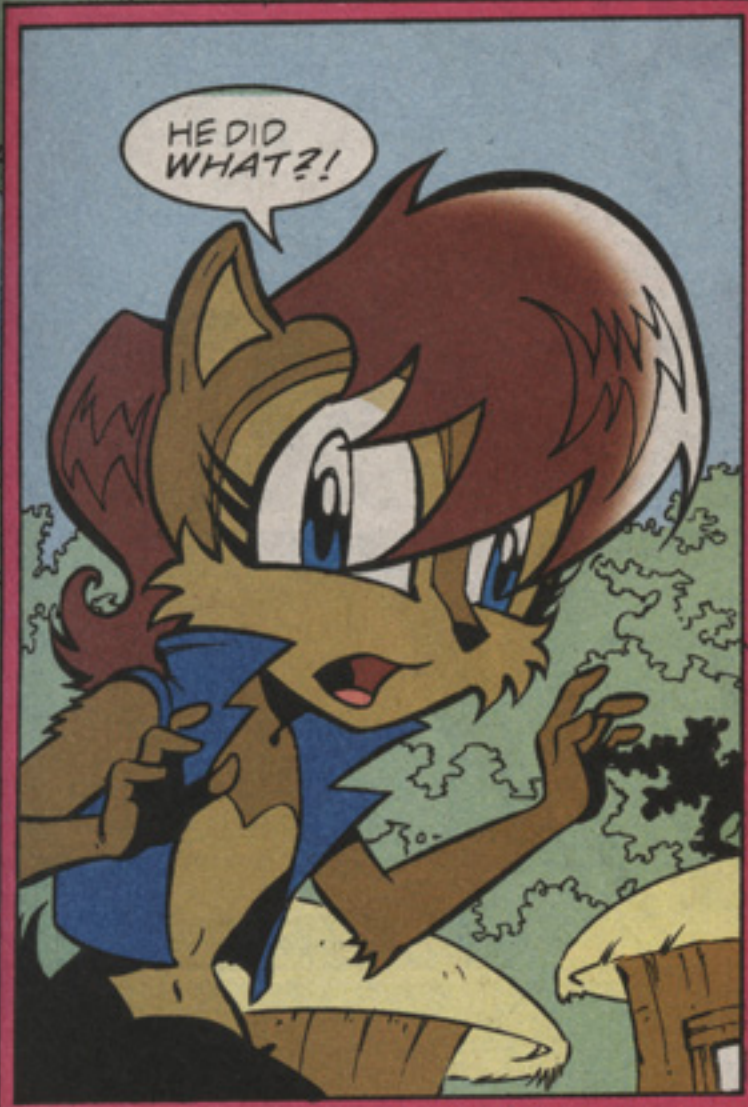


WHERE
ARE YOU
GOING?

WHERE I
NEED TO GO
NATE!



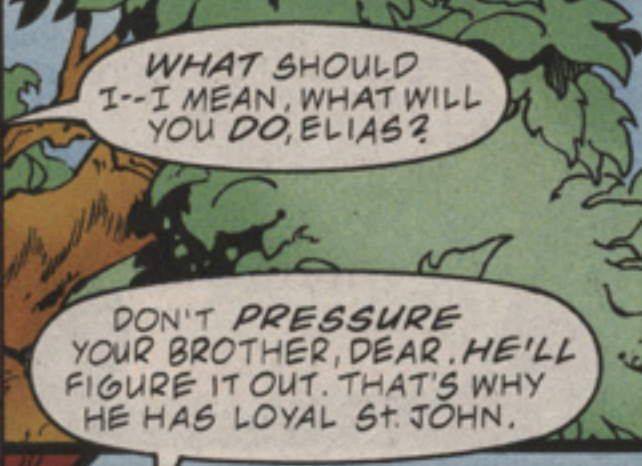




HE DID WHAT?!



STOLE THE SWORD, AND NO ONE KNOWS WHY. HE REFUSES TO EXPLAIN HIS ACTIONS.

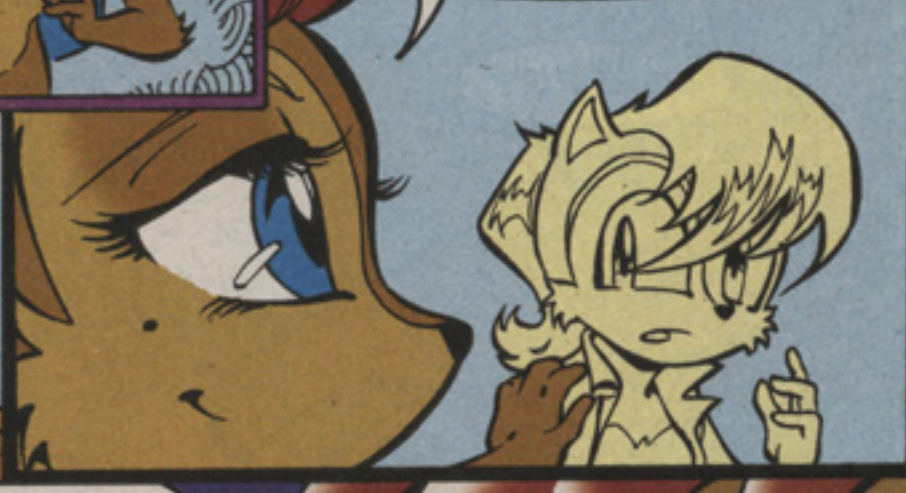


WHAT SHOULD I--I MEAN, WHAT WILL YOU DO, ELIAS?

DON'T PRESSURE YOUR BROTHER, DEAR. HE'LL FIGURE IT OUT. THAT'S WHY HE HAS LOYAL ST. JOHN.

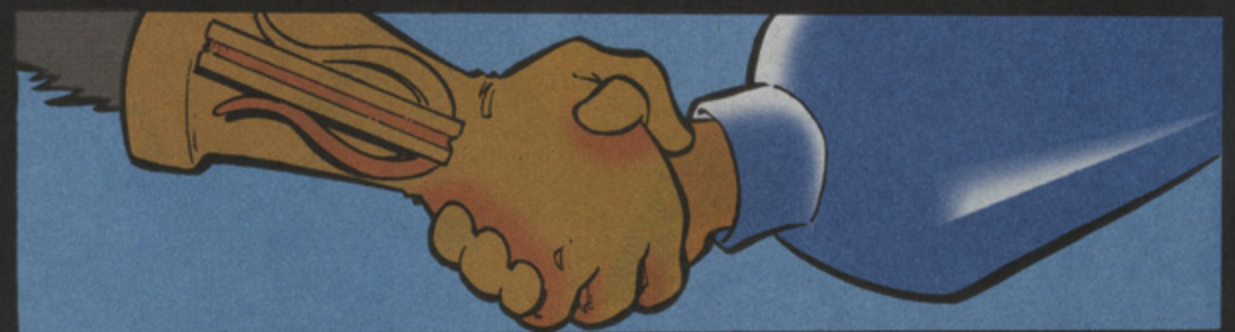
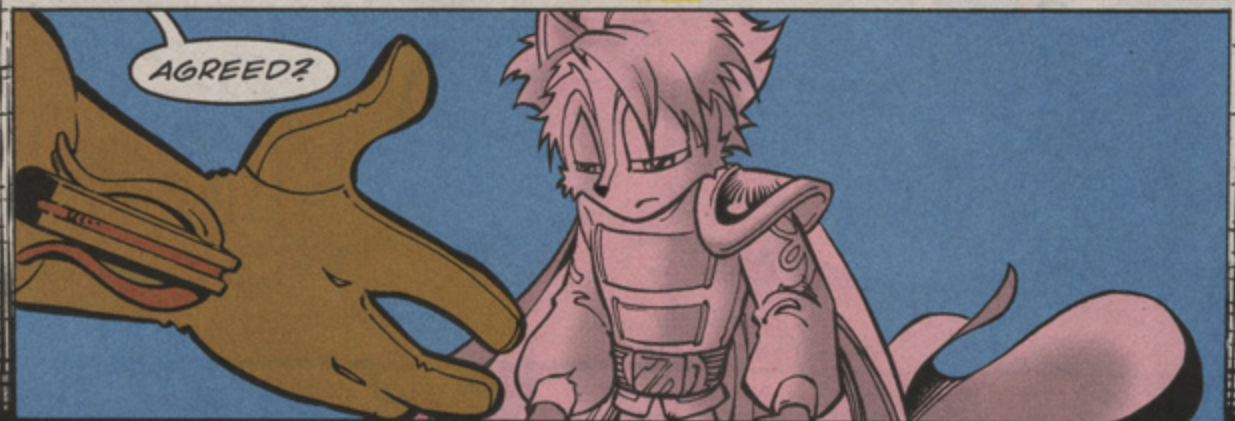
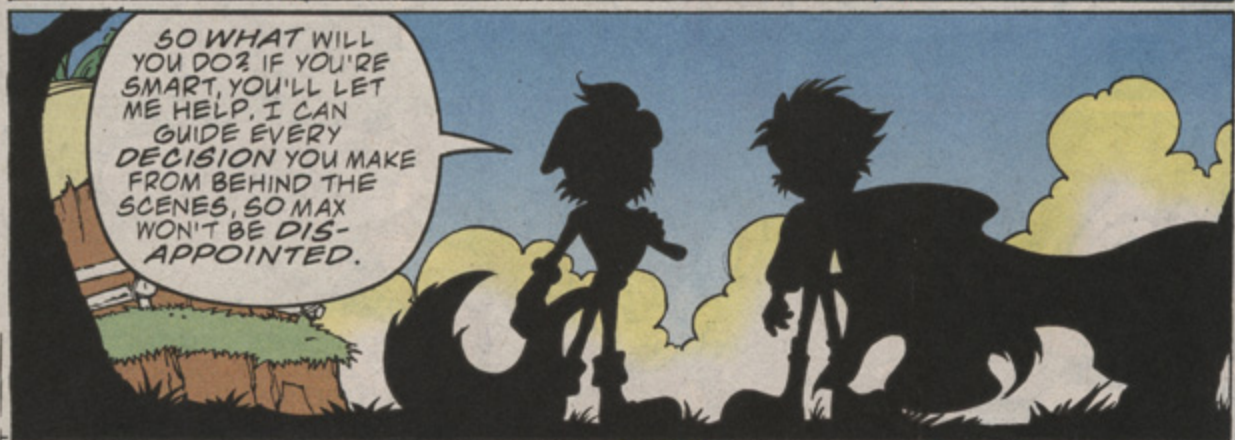
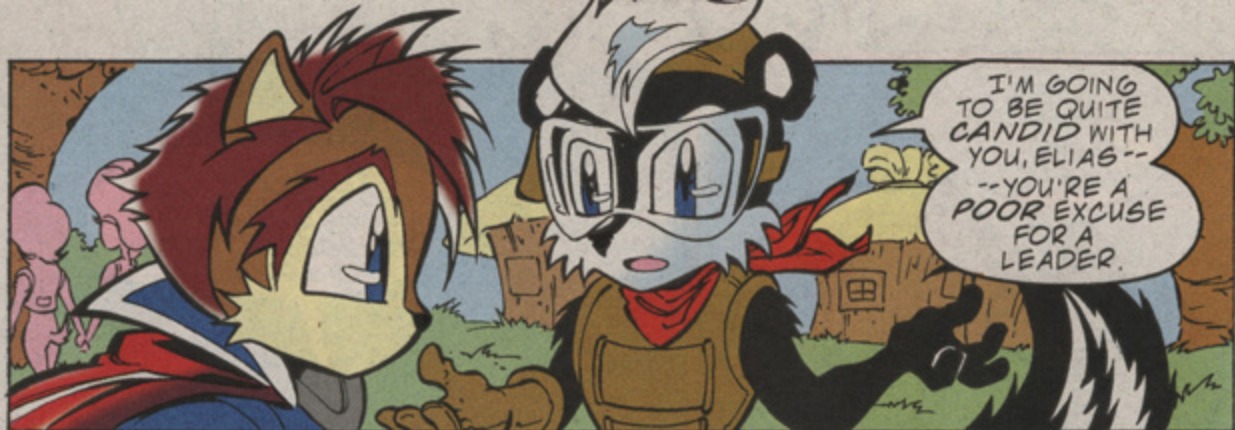


WHY DON'T WE GO ABOUT GETTING ME SOMETHING DECENT TO WEAR?



SOUNDS LIKE A CAPITAL IDEA, YOUR MAJESTY. IT WILL GIVE ME LEAVE TO ADEQUATELY COUNCIL THE PRINCE.





ROBOTNIK'S
BASE...

ENTER.

THIS
PLACE IS LIKE
BIGGER
THAN BIG!

AH, COLIN!
WELCOME--SPLENDID
TO SEE YOU AFTER
"A DECADE OR SO."

IT'S GOOD
TO SEE YOU
TOO,
JULIAN.

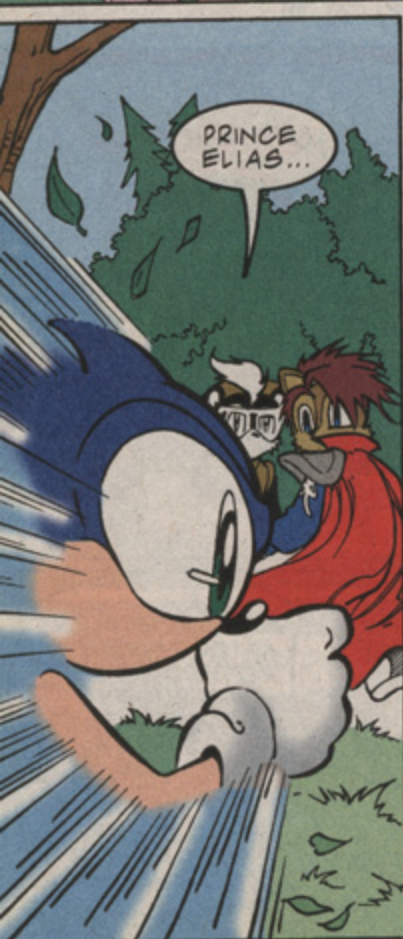
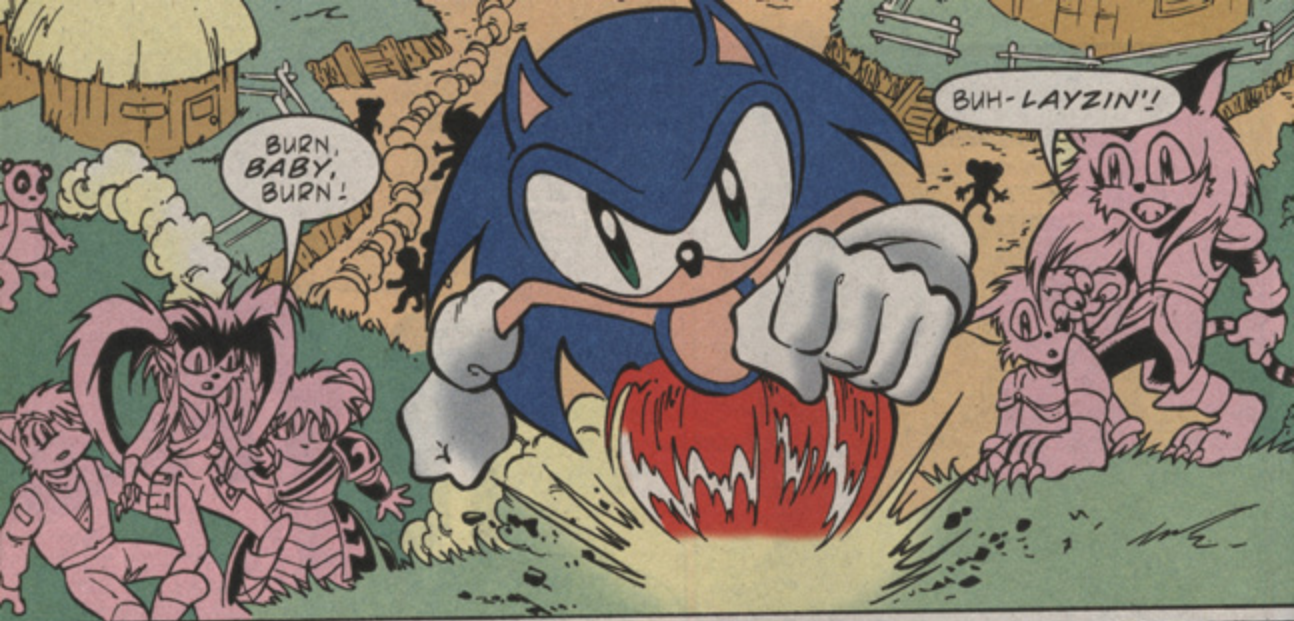
PLEASE
NO TOUCHING
...GERMS,
YOU KNOW...

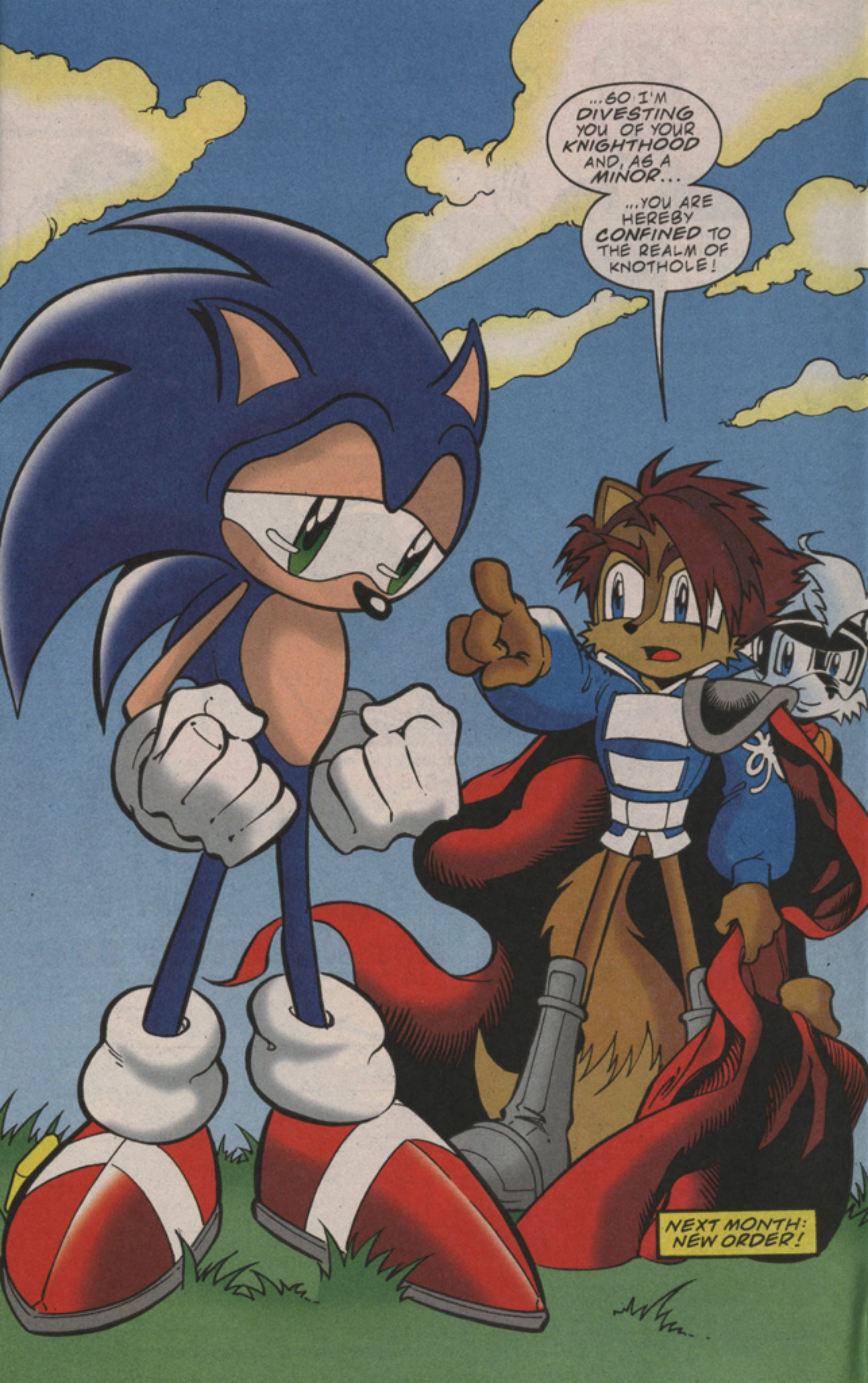
GERMS?!
SINCE WHEN
ARE YOU
BOTHERED
BY GERMS?

THINGS
CHANGE, AND
WHO ARE
THESE
EXQUISITE
CREATURES,
SEE-KAY?

I
REMARRIED
AFTER SNIVELY'S
MOTHER PASSED
AWAY BUT MY
SECOND WIFE
DIDN'T SURVIVE OUR
STAR TREK.

LADY AGNES
IS MY MOTHER-IN-LAW
AND HOPE IS MY
STEPDAUGHTER.





...SO I'M
DIVESTING
YOU OF YOUR
KNIGHTHOOD
AND, AS A
MINOR...

...YOU ARE
HEREBY
CONFINED TO
THE REALM OF
KNOTHOLE!

NEXT MONTH:
NEW ORDER!

KNUCKLES

THE ECHIDNA

BAGGING THE BIG ONE

ON A LAZY, SUMMER DAY, WE FIND HIS ROYAL MAJESTY *PRINCE CHARMY BEE* AND HIS FIANCEE, THE FAIR *SAFRON*, ENJOYING THE COMPANY OF EACH OTHER, UNTIL THEIR REVERIE IS UNEXPECTEDLY BROKEN BY A FLASH OF UNKNOWN ORIGIN...

-- AND AFTER WE'RE *MARRIED*, WHAT DO YOU SAY TO HAVING THREE BOYS AND THREE GIRLS --

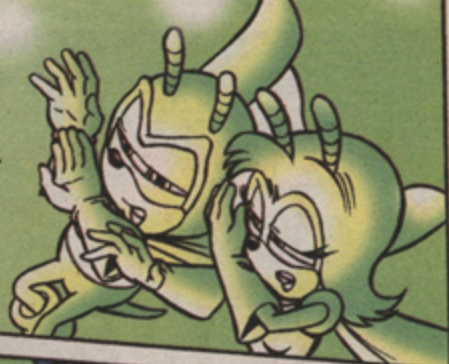
-- HUH!!!

CHARMY!!
WHAT'S THAT?!!

BEATS ME, SAFRON, BUT WHATEVER IT IS --

WHAT HAS THIS GOT TO DO WITH KNUCKLES? PATIENCE, DEAR READER, AND *KEN PENDERS* (WRITER, ARTIST, LETTERER, COLORIST, CHIEF COOK AND BOTTLE WASHER) ALONG WITH EDITOR *JUSTIN GABRIE* WILL SOON MAKE ALL CLEAR! JUST KEEP GOING...

-- IT'S LIKE
NOTHING I
EVER SAW
BEFORE!



WHOA!
THE SHAPE IS
FAMILIAR -- BUT
THE COLOR --



IS
THAT
YOU?

KNUCKLES?

YOU
SHOULD
TALK!

THAT'S RIGHT! YOU
WEREN'T AROUND WHEN
EVERYONE DISCOVERED
MY **SECRET**!

LOOKS LIKE
YOU **SHOT** UP A
BIT SINCE I LAST
LAID EYES ON
YOU!

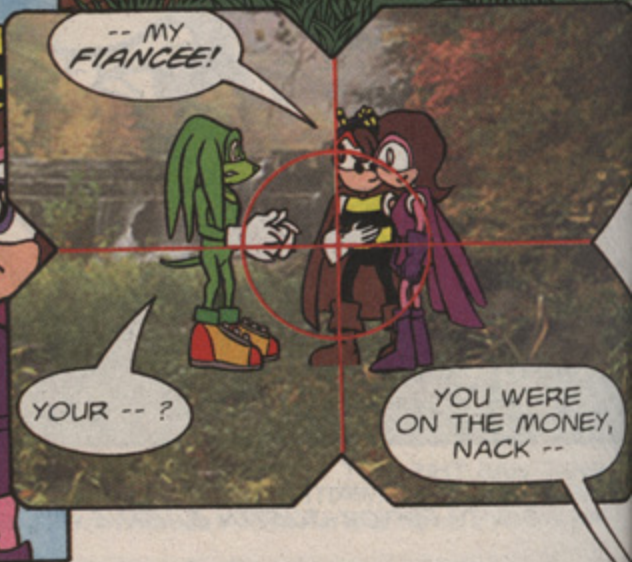
SECRET?

-- MY
FIANCEE!

BEFORE I GO
ON, ALLOW ME
TO INTRODUCE
SAFRON --

YOUR -- ?

YOU WERE
ON THE MONEY,
NACK --





IT'S WHAT **ANYONE** WOULD USUALLY DO IF THEY WERE IN A PICKLE, NIC!

-- FIGURING **KNUCKLES** WOULD SEEK OUT HIS **FRIENDS**!



ACCORDING TO THE ECHIDNAS, OUR BOY **LOST** HIS FAMILY AND FRIENDS DURING AN ATTACK FROM AN OLD ENEMY, WITH **ONE** EXCEPTION --

PRINCE CHARMING OVER THERE!

FORTUNATELY FOR US --

IT WAS SIMPLY A MATTER OF **WAITING** FOR OUR BOY TO **ARRIVE**!

NOW THAT HE'S **HERE**, WE CAN **BAG** 'IM!

THE **BEE** COLONY IS LOCATED IN **ONE CENTRAL LOCATION** --

-- UNLIKE HEDGEHOGS, ECHIDNAS AND SQUIRRELS I KNOW!



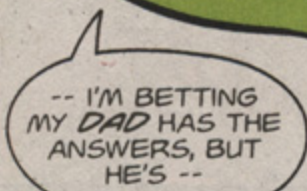
HEY!!!!

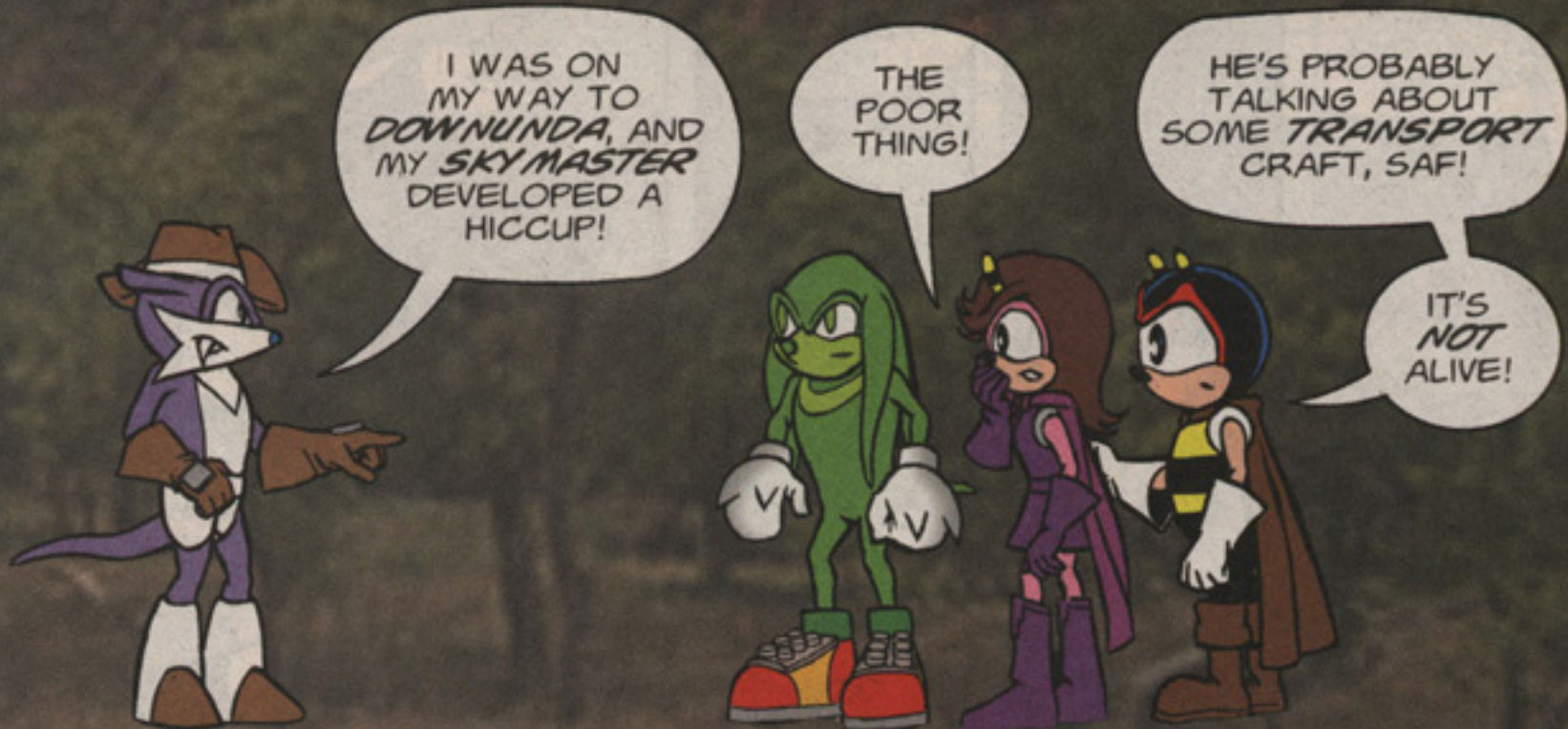
WHEN DID YOU SUFFER A **BRAIN-DRAIN**, SIS?

YOUR WEAPON STANDS ABOUT AS MUCH CHANCE **AGAINST** THE ECHIDNA AS I HAVE OF MAKING AN **HONEST** LIVING!

WHY DO IT THE **HARD** WAY --

-- WHEN PLAYING **DIRTY** IS MUCH EASIER!







SAAAAAAY!
THAT WASN'T
FRIENDLY!



SEEMS LIKE
THE *WEASEL*
DOESN'T KNOW
HOW TO TAKE
"NO" FOR AN
ANSWER!



TOUGH!



LISTEN
TO YOUR
FRIEND,
MATE --

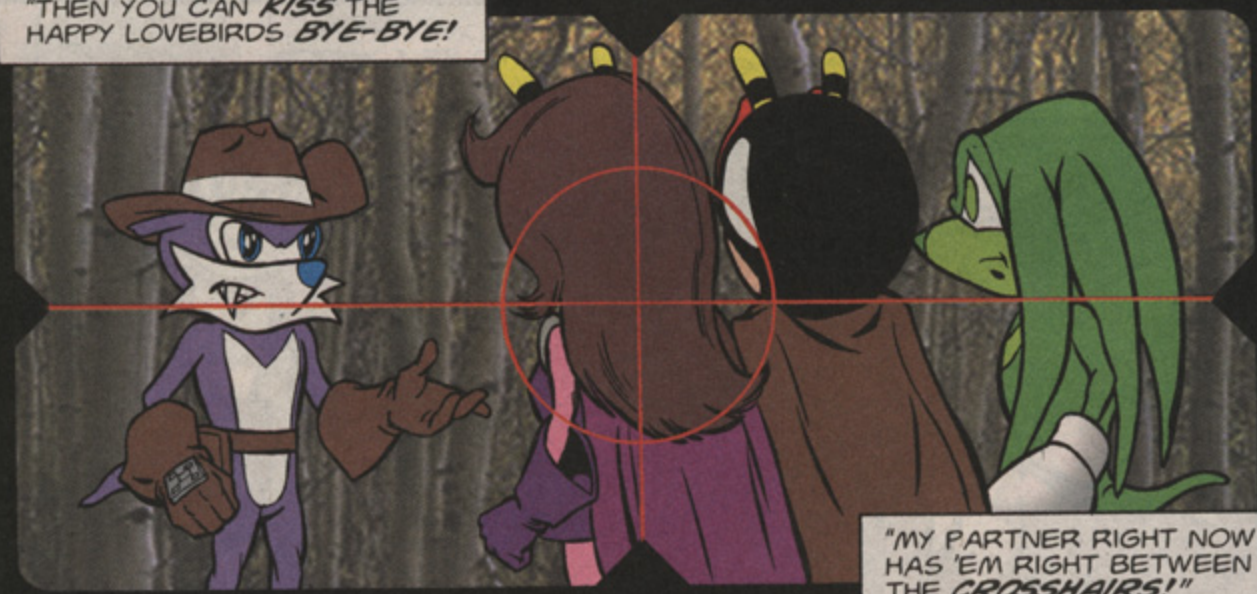


THIS AIN'T *BEAN*
BAG WE'RE PLAYIN'!

YOU'LL
COME WITH
ME WHETHER
YOU *WANT* TO
OR NOT!

SUPPOSE
I DON'T WANT
TO?

"THEN YOU CAN *KISS* THE
HAPPY LOVEBIRDS *BYE-BYE*!"

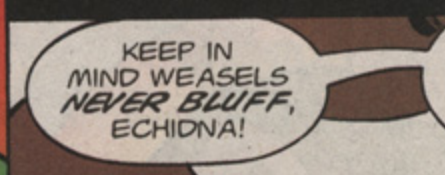


"MY PARTNER RIGHT NOW
HAS 'EM RIGHT BETWEEN
THE *CROSSHAIRS*!"

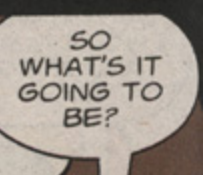


DON'T DO IT
ON ACCOUNT
OF US, KNUX!

TAKE A
HIKE AND
DO WHAT
YOU HAVE
TO!



KEEP IN
MIND WEASELS
NEVER BLUFF,
ECHIDNA!



SO
WHAT'S IT
GOING TO
BE?



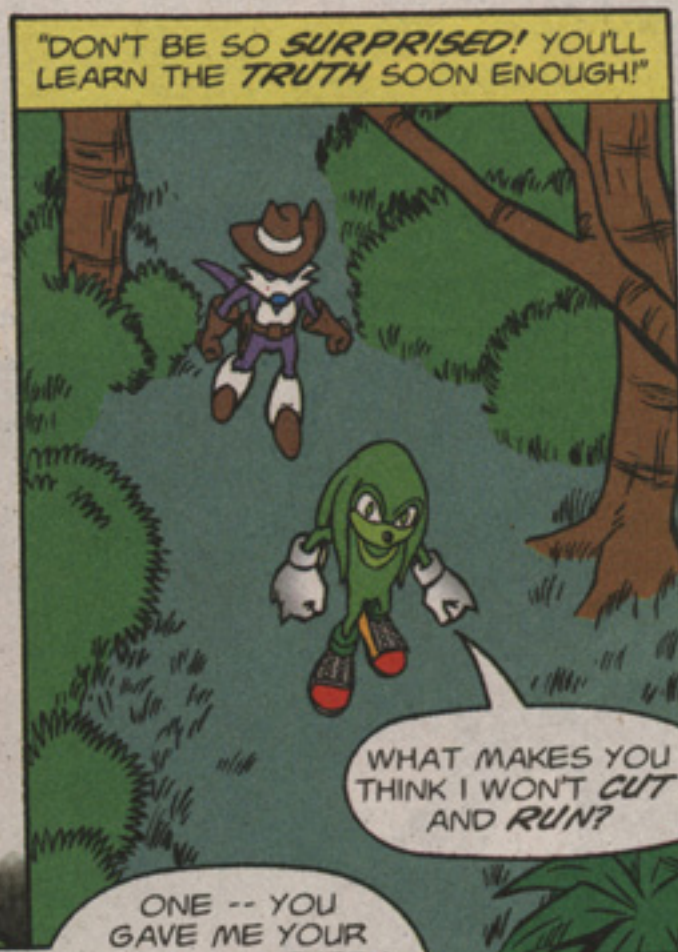
NACK
DID
IT!

WHO'D
HAVE
GUESSED
IT'D BE THIS
EASY?



NOT QUITE!
THE **HARD**
PART IS YET
TO COME!

WHA -- ?!!



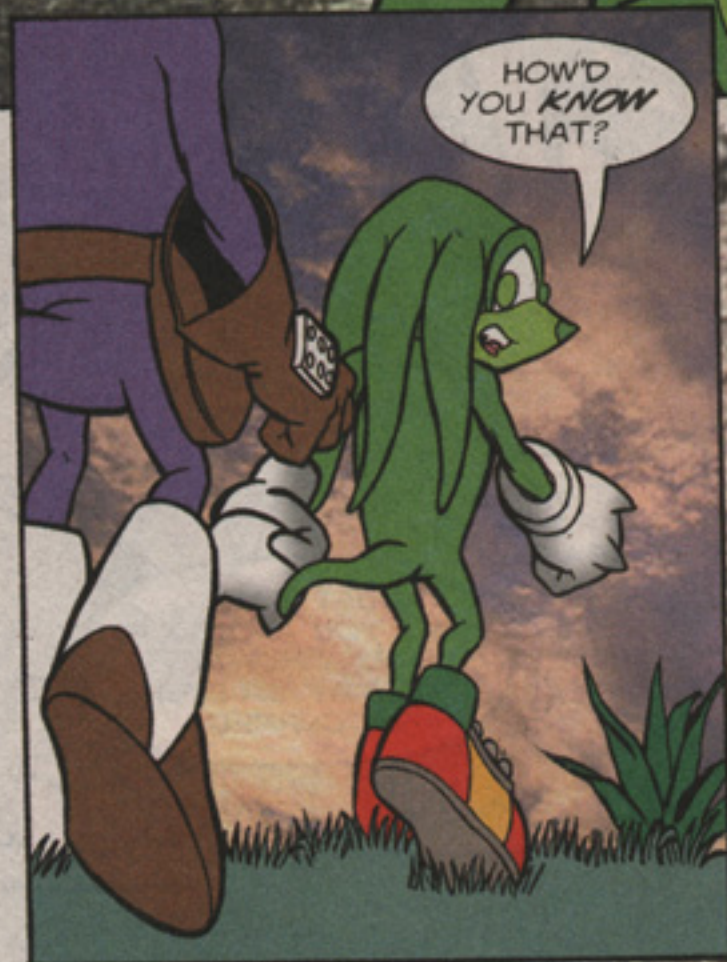
"DON'T BE SO **SURPRISED!** YOU'LL
LEARN THE **TRUTH** SOON ENOUGH!"

WHAT MAKES YOU
THINK I WON'T **CUT**
AND **RUN**?

ONE -- YOU
GAVE ME YOUR
WORD, AND EVERY-
ONE **KNOWS** A
GUARDIAN'S WORD
IS HIS BOND!

AND TWO --
I GOT TWO INNOCENTS
WHO SAY YOU WON'T IN
CASE YOU DON'T
UNDERSTAND WHAT
"**IS**" IS!

"GUARDIAN?"



HOW'D
YOU **KNOW**
THAT?

BECAUSE
WE TOLD
HIM!



YOU?

HEY!
HANDS OFF THE
MERCHANDISE UNTIL
YOU FORK OVER THE
DOUGH-RE-MI!

-- YANAR?

AND
GALA-NA?!!

DON'T MAKE THIS
ANY MORE *DIFFICULT*
THAN IT ALREADY IS,
KNUCKLES!

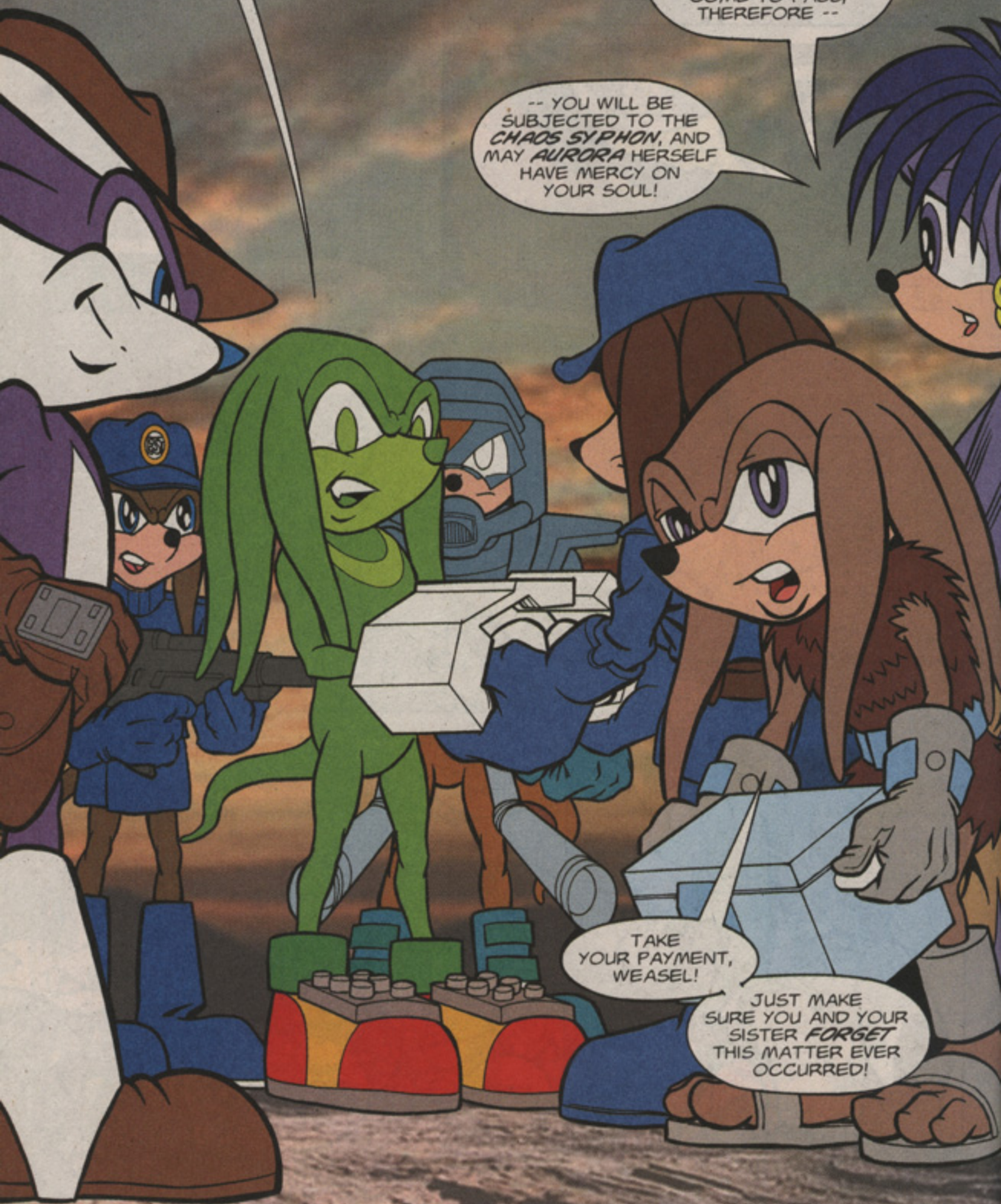
YOU WIELD
POWER FAR BEYOND YOUR
COMPREHENSION, MAKING YOU
A *DANGER* TO EVERYONE
AND EVERYTHING!

SINCE YOU ARE
ONE OF US, IT'S OUR
RESPONSIBILITY TO
ENSURE THAT DOESN'T
COME TO PASS,
THEREFORE --

-- YOU WILL BE
SUBJECTED TO THE
CHAOS SYPHON, AND
MAY *AURORA* HERSELF
HAVE MERCY ON
YOUR SOUL!

TAKE
YOUR PAYMENT,
WEASEL!

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SONIC-GRAMS



OFF PANEL by Gallagher, Manak & Amash

THIS JUST IN!

J.F. GABRIE
EDITOR

Well it's that time again for the usual legal jargon. So since I have no space to speak this month (as if anyone wanted to hear what I have to say), I'll simply let the Coming Attractions take over...

Catch you on the flip side!



Next issue:

What's that? You say you spent your entire childhood as a freedom fighter? And now, you're a teenager and the war's over, dude? What's a growing hedgehog to do? What's expected of every Mobian under age eighteen—get an education! Check out "New Order," written by Karl Bollers, pencilled by FRY, and inked by Pam Eklund! And while you're at it, be sure to buy our KNUCKLES back-up, written and inked by Ken Penders, with pencils by Ron Lim. You won't want to miss SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #94, on sale in frosty February of 2001!

Note: Due to the overwhelming amount of e-mail and snail mail, it is impossible for us to reply personally to each and every message. However, your opinions are important to us and each message will be read. Also, due to space limitations, some correspondence may be edited.

Thanks for understanding!



#94

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Here's what readers had to say about SONIC #85 and 86:

Dear Sonic-Grams,

I'm a long-time Sonic fan and had been collecting your comic, but I stopped for three years. Then I saw that Sonic-shaped pasta offer for a free comic and sent away for it. I got SONIC #83 in the mail, and now I'm back (drawn like a hedgehog to chili dogs). Issue #85's "The Big Payback" was excellent!! I had heard that issues #86-87 were going to feature the return of Mecha-Sonic, and I couldn't wait, but now I'm pretty content just to reread #85 until they get here. The ending was hilarious and the cover is like a video game fight. I thought it was funny when Tails got clocked by Silver Sonic II's foot (even though it knocked him out for a while). Ron Lim's art has gotten better since the SONIC ADVENTURE adaptation. Keep up the good work!

Andrew Davis (age 13), Mechanicsburg, PA

Face it, Andrew—you're hooked on that hedgehog-goodness! And who can blame you? Welcome back!

Dear Sonic-Grams,

I've always wondered why Tails has not just one but two tails. Is he some kind of mutated fox? Why isn't Rotor a freedom fighter anymore? What does Nate Morgan do exactly? That's it for now.

Scott Mrozek, Joliet, IL

Tails was born with two tails, Scott. No one knows why, and no one has ever asked—they've just accepted him for who he is. Who says Rotor isn't a freedom fighter? Did you miss Issue #91? What does Nate do, you ask? He was King Max's royal advisor, but as of next issue, he'll be taking on a new role...

Dear Sonic-Grams,

I like your comics a lot, and I hope they continue for years to come. I also have a few questions: 1) What happened to Kodos, Arachnis, Snively, and Predator Hawk? 2) What happened to those twin vessels emerging from hyperspace back in issues #77 and #78? By the way, I loved the SONIC ADVENTURE tie-in.

Joel Johnson, Maine, NY

1) Arachnis and Kodos appeared in this issue, Joel! Expect Snively in the next one! 2) If you read issues #91-92, you know exactly what happened to those spaceships that were headed for Mobius!

Dear Sonic-Grams

You're awesome! You make the coolest SONIC comics ever! I am a fan and read them every chance I get. I just can't get enough of that crazy, evil-fighting hedgehog. But you also can't forget about his trustworthy sidekick Tails. I think Amy should get a shot at the spotlight too, but Tails has more experience at fighting. I just have one question: Whatever happened to Scratch and Grounder? Did they get fired by Robotnik?

Nicole Schumacher (age 10), House Springs, MO

Thanks for writing, Nicole! If you were lucky enough to pick up SONIC SUPER SPECIAL #15 (the action-packed finale to that series), you might have seen Scratch and Grounder lurking about in "Sonic Spin City," a tale written and penciled by Off Panel's own Mike Gallagher!

Greetings Archie Comics,

My name is Justin P. Reese, also known as "The Sonic god" on the internet, because of my extensive knowledge of SONIC THE HEDGEHOG games, as well as the comic book series. I recently read issue #86. I'll sum it up in one word: AWESOME. Never have I seen such talented artists. Truly magnificent. You deserve a lot of credit, more than I can give. The return of Metal Sonic will prove a difficult challenge for Sonic, especially with the unknown gem-like power source coming from its chest. I must read the next issue to learn the answer. Ah, the "Off Panel" strips. These are really funny and remind me of the old days of the SONIC comic when the stories were more comical. Please keep these mini-strips in the issue if it's not too much trouble. Reading last month's Sonic-Grams, I see yet another person who wants Tails and Fiona to "hook up." Would that make Barby Koala jealous? Hmmm, if you ask me, Sonic and Tails should stay bachelors for a while. Marriage, or "hook ups," would destroy the storyline—but I do think there should be some relationship issues. One final word: the catch phrase "Keep On Juicin" seems to be more interesting to me than "Is that your final

answer?" Some catch phrases stick, while others get fairly annoying. Funny, such a long letter with no questions. It's probably because I have all the answers.

Justin P. Reese, Anoka, MN

Thanks, Justin!

Dear Sonic-Grams,

Let me start off by saying I love the SONIC THE HEDGEHOG comics!!! Issue #85 was cool! Silver Sonic II was awesome, but Sonic was just the guy to handle him! Now I have some questions: 1) What issues make up the SONIC ADVENTURE adaptation? 2) Will Turbo Tails make another appearance? 3) Is Zonic Sonic's brother? I was shocked to find out that KNUCKLES had been canceled. See you later!

Gabriel Laughlin, Mt. Hope, KS

1) SONIC ADVENTURE spanned issues #79-85 of SONIC THE HEDGEHOG, and SONIC SUPER SPECIAL #13, Gabriel! 2) For the answer to that question, you might want to check out issues #96-97! Who says this isn't the year of hedgehog happenings? 3) No, Zonic is an alternate zone-reality version of Sonic himself (you follow?)

Dear Sonic-Grams,

I like the comics, but the new Robotnik really stinks. He looks like he's listening to music through headphones. I think the cover to issue #85 was more appealing than the actual story. I absolutely need to know what happened to Robotnik's Swat-Bots?

William Brown, Oceanside, NY

Robotnik's Swat-Bots were junked and replaced by RoboRobotnik's Shadow-Bots, William...

Whoops! Looks like we've run out of space to print your letters, dudes and dudettes! 'Till next time...

KEEP ON JUICIN'!

Cover illustration by
Patrick Spaziante and Ken Penders
with colors
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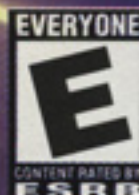
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